IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Cancelled).

2.   (Previously Submitted)   A video memory manager for use in a
video recording device capable of storing a plurality of video
programs on a disk drive, said video memory manager comprising:

    a video memory controller capable of detecting that said
5   disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a
next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,
in response to said detection, determines a first retention score
associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and
a second retention score associated with a second one of said
10 plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second
retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first
and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video
memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and
second video programs,
15 wherein said video memory controller replaces said deleted least
desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and
describing said deleted least desirable video program.

3. (Currently Amended)   A video memory manager for use in a
video recording device capable of storing a plurality of video
programs on a disk drive, said video memory manager comprising:

a video memory controller capable of detecting that said
5 disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a
next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,
in response to said detection, determines a first retention score
associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and
a second retention score associated with a second one of said
10 plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second
retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first
and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video
memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and
second video programs,
15 wherein said video memory controller compresses said least
desirable video program prior to deleting said least desirable
video program, and stores said compressed least desirable video
program in place of said deleted least desirable video program.

4. (Previously Submitted)   The video memory manager as claimed in
Claim 3, wherein said video memory controller deletes said
compressed least desirable video program if said video memory
controller determines that said disk drive still does not contain
5 sufficient storage space to store said next-to-be-recorded program

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after compression of said least desirable video program has
occurred.

5.   (Previously Submitted)   The video memory manager as claimed in
Claim 2, wherein said video memory controller determines said first
and second retention scores according to a plurality of factors
associated with said first and second video programs.

6.   (Previously Submitted)   The video memory manager as claimed in
Claim 5, wherein said plurality of factors comprises at least one
of:

    a user-entered rank ordering associated with said first

5   and second video programs;

    relative fairness of deleting said first video if said
first video is associated with a first user of said video recording
device and said second video is associated with a second user of
said video recording device;

10   relative freshness of said first and second video
programs;

    relative durations of said first and second video programs
compared to a duration of said next-to-be-recorded program;

    relative similarity of a category of said first video

15   program and a category of said second video program compared to a
category of said next-to-be-recorded program; and

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at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

with said first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

television series associated with said first video program has been

20   viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

7.   (Cancelled).

8.   (Previously Submitted) A video recording device comprising:

a disk drive capable of storing a plurality of video

programs;

a video recording controller capable of receiving incoming

5   video programs from an external source and storing said received

incoming video programs on said disk drive; and

a video memory controller capable of detecting that said

disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a

next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,

10   in response to said detection, determines a first retention score

associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

a second retention score associated with a second one of said

plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second

retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first

15   and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video

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memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and

second video programs,

wherein said video memory controller replaces said deleted least

desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and

20   describing said deleted least desirable video program.

9.   (Currently Amended)   A video recording device comprising:

          a disk drive capable of storing a plurality of video

programs;

          a video recording controller capable of receiving incoming

5   video programs from an external source and storing said received

incoming video programs on said disk drive; and

          a video memory controller capable of detecting that said

disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a

next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,

10   in response to said detection, determines a first retention score

associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

a second retention score associated with a second one of said

plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second

retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first

15   and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video

memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and

second video programs,

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wherein said video memory controller compresses said least

desirable video program prior to deleting said least desirable

20   video program, and stores said compressed least desirable video

program in place of said deleted least desirable video program.

10.   (Previously Submitted) The video recording device as claimed

in Claim 9, wherein said video memory controller deletes said

compressed least desirable video program if said video memory

controller determines that said disk drive still does not contain

5   sufficient storage space to store said next-to-be-recorded program

after compression of said least desirable video program has

occurred.

11.   (Previously Submitted) The video recording device as claimed

in Claim 8, wherein said video memory controller determines said

first and second retention scores according to a plurality of

factors associated with said first and second video programs.

12.   (Previously Submitted) The video recording device as claimed

in Claim 11, wherein said plurality of factors comprises at least

one of:

        a user-entered rank ordering associated with said first

5   and second video programs;

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relative fairness of deleting said first video if said first video is associated with a first user of said video recording device and said second video is associated with a second user of said video recording device;

10   relative freshness of said first and second video programs;

relative durations of said first and second video programs compared to a duration of said next-to-be-recorded program;

relative similarity of a category of said first video
15 program and a category of said second video program compared to a category of said next-to-be-recorded program; and

at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated with said first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a television series associated with said first video program has been
20 viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

13.   (Cancelled).

14.   (Previously Submitted) A method of managing a plurality of stored video programs for use in a video recording device capable of storing a plurality of video programs on a disk drive, the method comprising the steps of:

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5   detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient

storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

determining a first retention score associated with a

first one of the plurality of video programs;

determining a second retention score associated with a

10   second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first

and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining

the first and second video programs respectively; and

deleting a least desirable one of the first and second

video programs,

15   wherein the method further comprises the step of:

replacing the deleted least desirable video program with a

program abstract identifying and describing the deleted least

desirable video program.

15.   (Currently Amended)   A method of managing a plurality of

stored video programs for use in a video recording device capable

of storing a plurality of video programs on a disk drive, the

method comprising the steps of:

5   detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient

storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

determining a first retention score associated with a

first one of the plurality of video programs;

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determining a second retention score associated with a
10   second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first
and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining
the first and second video programs respectively; and
        deleting a least desirable one of the first and second
video programs,
15   wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
        compressing the least desirable video program prior to the
step of deleting the least desirable video program; and
        storing said compressed least desirable video program in
place of said deleted least desirable video program.

16.   (Previously Submitted) The method as claimed in Claim 15,
wherein said method further comprises the step of:
        deleting the compressed least desirable video program in
response to a determination that the disk drive still does not
5   contain sufficient storage space to store the next-to-be-recorded
program after compression of the least desirable video program has
occurred.

17.   (Previously Submitted) The method as claimed in Claim 14,
wherein the first and second retention scores are determined
according to a plurality of factors associated with the first and
second video programs.

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18.   (Previously Submitted) The method as claimed in Claim 17,
wherein the plurality of factors comprises at least one of:

     a user-entered rank ordering associated with the first and
second video programs;

5   relative fairness of deleting the first video if the first
video is associated with a first user of the video recording device
and the second video is associated with a second user of the video
recording device;

     relative freshness of the first and second video programs;

10   relative durations of the first and second video programs
compared to a duration of the next-to-be-recorded program;

     relative similarity of a category of the first video
program and a category of the second video program compared to a
category of the next-to-be-recorded program; and

15   at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated
with the first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a
television series associated with said first video program has been
viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a
user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

19.   (Cancelled).

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20.   (Previously Submitted) A computer-readable storage medium, for
use in a video recording device capable of storing a plurality of
video programs on a disk drive, containing computer-executable
instructions for managing the plurality of stored video programs,
5   the computer-executable instructions comprising the steps of:
        detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient
storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;
        determining a first retention score associated with a
first one of the plurality of video programs;
10   determining a second retention score associated with a
second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first
and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining
the first and second video programs respectively; and
        deleting a least desirable one of the first and second
15   video programs,
wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise the
step of:
        replacing the deleted least desirable video program with a
program abstract identifying and describing the deleted least
20   desirable video program.

21.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium, for
use in a video recording device capable of storing a plurality of
video programs on a disk drive, containing computer-executable

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instructions for managing the plurality of stored video programs,

5   the computer-executable instructions comprising the steps of:

　　　　detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient

storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

　　　　determining a first retention score associated with a

first one of the plurality of video programs;

10   　　　　determining a second retention score associated with a

second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first

and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining

the first and second video programs respectively; and

　　　　deleting a least desirable one of the first and second

15   video programs,

wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise the

steps of:

　　　　compressing the least desirable video program prior to the

step of deleting the least desirable video program; and

20   　　　　storing said compressed least desirable video program in

place of said deleted least desirable video program.

22. (Previously Submitted) The computer-readable storage medium as

claimed in Claim 21, wherein the computer-executable instructions

further comprise the step of:

　　　　deleting the compressed least desirable video program in

5   response to a determination that the disk drive still does not

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contain sufficient storage space to store the next-to-be-recorded program after compression of the least desirable video program has occurred.

23.   (Previously Submitted) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the first and second retention scores are determined according to a plurality of factors associated with the first and second video programs.

24.   (Previously Submitted) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the plurality of factors comprises at least one of:

a user-entered rank ordering associated with the first and

5   second video programs;

relative fairness of deleting the first video if the first video is associated with a first user of the video recording device and the second video is associated with a second user of the video recording device;

10   relative freshness of the first and second video programs;

relative durations of the first and second video programs compared to a duration of the next-to-be-recorded program;

relative similarity of a category of the first video program and a category of the second video program compared to a

15   category of the next-to-be-recorded program; and

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at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated with the first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a television series associated with the first video program has been viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a
20   user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

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